APPENDIX I.

(*Vide* answer to Starred Question No. 23 on page 88)

According to section 65 (*e*) of the Tamil Nadu Panchayat Act, 1958, the opening and maintenance and expansion or improvement of Elementary schools in Panchayat Union areas are among the functions assigned to the Panchayat Union Councils. The Elementary schools in non-municipal areas in the State, except in Kanyakumari district and Shencottah Taluk in Tirunelveli district known as "Transferred Territories, are run by the Panchayat Union Councils and revenues by way of taxation and grants are assigned to the Panchayat Union Councils for this purpose. In the case of the transferred territories". Section 65 (*e*) requiring the Panchayat Union Councils to run the Elementary schools and the allied provisions regarding the devolution of funds have not been extended. The Elementary schools in these areas were formerly run by the erstwhile Travancore-Cochin State and they are now run by the Tamil Nadu Government. If these schools are transferred to the Panchayat Unions, they, with their limited resources, will not be able to run these institutions and there will be problems with regard to transfer of Government staff to Panchayat Unions. The Government have therefore ordered that status quo may continue till such time as the Government are in a position to introduce the ryotwari settlement in Kanyakumari district based on the settlement operations that are now nearing completion.

Anticipating the above transfer of control of Government Elementary schools to the Panchayat Union Councils, about 500 teachers of Kanyakumari district took out a procession on 27th March 71. They convened a meeting and adopted the following resolutions :—

(i) requesting the Government not bring the Government Primary and Middle Schools under the control of Panchayat Unions; and

(ii) demanding promotions to the graduate teachers on the basis of seniority.